

## The Trend in Finance

**Stock Prices Turn Lower, but Business Outlook Remains Promising; Meaning of the Bethlehem Merger**

By Merryle Stanley Rukeyser

**T**O THE financial journalist, the temptation to see profound significance in routine market fluctuations sometimes exists, and yet the urge to diagnose correctly the meaning of vacillating stock prices is more compelling. The truth, however lacking in dramatic details, is a force whose impact can be felt through the land, but it is difficult to obtain what the academicians call quantitative data to prove the scientific accuracy of your conclusions, which at best represent opinions.

It would be far more spectacular to read calamitous warnings about a forthcoming storm in business into the present reaction in the stock market than to reiterate that the setback is largely an internal market phenomenon representing the aftermath of fourteen months of rising quotations.

The decline, which was only fractional last week in industrial stocks and somewhat greater among the railroad issues, was facilitated by vague fears regarding the possible temper of the new Congress, in which so-called radicalism of the West will have a larger voice.

In spite of the stock market, the outlook for domestic trade for many months still seems promising. The fundamentals of trade at home are sound and Charles E. Mitchell, president of the National City Bank, asks his fellow financiers to become more optimistic regarding the economic outlook in Europe. There is room for a difference of opinion about the situation in the Old World, but American industries can enjoy a measure of prosperity without enormous buying of European goods by European customers.

Conditions in the money markets have shown little fluctuations for the last several weeks and are expected by bankers to remain static, at least until after the turn of the year. Chief interest is now expressed in the form that the government financing to meet December 15 maturities and interest will assume, it being taken for granted that other security issues, because of unfavorable market conditions, will be few and far between. Short-term financing, rather than another bond issue, is regarded as certain, it being probable that two classes of securities, certificates and short-term notes, will be offered in an amount of \$500,000,000 or greater.

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**Comparative Table**  
of New York Bank and Trust Company Stocks, just published, forwarded on request.

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## Transactions Last Week in Listed Stocks

High	Low	Date	Div.	Sales	High	Low	Chas.	Net chgs.	High	Low	Date	Div.	Sales	High	Low	Chas.	Net chgs.	
1922	1922	Oct 6	48	Jan 12	1800	771	701	-1/2	1800	771	701	1/2	1922	1922	Oct 6	59	1/2	
83	82	Aug 18	10%	Jan 18	1100	127	111	-1/2	1100	127	111	-1/2	85	85	Sept 11	59	1/2	
23	22	Aug 18	10%	do pf	400	44	41	1/2	400	44	41	1/2	125	125	Oct 21	60	1/2	
60 1/2	59	Oct 18	5 1/2%	Jan 12	1300	58	53	-2 1/2	1300	58	53	-2 1/2	95	95	Sept 15	58	1/2	
69	68	Oct 18	4 1/2%	Jan 3	Air Reduction	2100	128	117	-1/2	2100	128	117	-1/2	107	107	Sept 23	58	1/2
16 1/2	15	Oct 28	9 1/2%	July 28	Ajax Rubber	1800	5	5	-1/2	1800	5	5	-1/2	234	234	Nov 9	5	1/2
7 1/2	7	May 10	1 1/2%	Jan 14	Alaska Gold Mines	1800	5	5	-1/2	1800	5	5	-1/2	234	234	Nov 9	5	1/2
2	2	May 17	5 1/2%	Nov 24	Alaska Juneau	1500	31	16	-1/2	1500	31	16	-1/2	234	234	Nov 9	5	1/2
120	119	Nov 24	107	Feb 9	All America Cables	100	120	120	+1/2	100	120	120	+1/2	234	234	Nov 9	5	1/2
91 1/2	90	Sept 5	8 5/8%	Jan 4	Allied Dye & Chem	3600	75	69	-1/2	3600	75	69	-1/2	234	234	Nov 9	5	1/2
115 1/2	115	Sept 19	10 1/2%	Jan 4	Allied Dye & Chem	1000	103	100	-2 1/2	1000	103	100	-2 1/2	147	147	Sept 14	5	1/2
104	103	Sept 21	8 6/2%	Jan 7	Allis Chalmers	4800	42	38	-1/2	4800	42	38	-1/2	147	147	Sept 14	5	1/2
70 1/2	70	June 1	2 1/2%	Nov 28	Amer Agri Chem	1800	31	26	-2 1/2	1800	31	26	-2 1/2	21	21	June 5	5	1/2
2	2	Nov 24	107	Feb 9	All Amer Cables	100	80	80	-1/2	100	80	80	-1/2	21	21	June 5	5	1/2
120 1/2	120	Sept 5	8 5/8%	Jan 4	Alli Chalmers	600	97	90	-1/2	600	97	90	-1/2	47	47	Sept 11	5	1/2
90	89	May 28	7 1/2%	Jan 4	Amer Bank Note	100	55	55	-1/2	100	55	55	-1/2	47	47	Sept 11	5	1/2
55	54	Sept 1	5 1/2%	Jan 4	Amer Beer Sugar	800	58	57	-1/2	800	58	57	-1/2	47	47	Sept 11	5	1/2
49	48	June 1	3 1/2%	Jan 4	Amer Bank Note	100	77	77	-1/2	100	77	77	-1/2	47	47	Sept 11	5	1/2
80 1/2	80	Oct 17	6 1/2%	Jan 11	Amer Bosch Mag.	400	84	80	-1/2	400	84	80	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
49	48	April 11	3 1/2%	Jan 31	Amer Bosch Mag.	100	78	78	-1/2	100	78	78	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
88 1/2	88	Sept 12	5 1/2%	Jan 4	Amer Brak & Fy	1000	123	117	-1/2	1000	123	117	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
70 1/2	70	Nov 21	5 1/2%	Jan 18	Amer Can	1000	110	104	-1/2	1000	110	104	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
20	20	Sept 11	5 1/2%	Jan 18	Amer Can	1000	120	116	-1/2	1000	120	116	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
120 1/2	120	Nov 8	11 1/2%	Jan 6	Amer Can	100	124	124	-1/2	100	124	124	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
90	89	May 3	8 1/2%	Jan 14	Amer Chile	700	78	55	-1/2	700	78	55	-1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
14	13	May 31	14%	Jan 22	Amer Cotton Oil	6600	181	143	-10 1/2	6600	181	143	-10 1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
61	60	Sept 31	34	Nov 23	Amer Linseed	900	40	37	-3 1/2	900	40	37	-3 1/2	53	53	Sept 14	5	1/2
74 1/2	74	Aug 15	4 1/2%	Jan 12	Amer Dura Syn.	2500												